PRESS RELEASES

Feb 28, 2005

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 28, 2005--The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.0875 per common share, to be paid April 15, 2005, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 15, 2005.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 68 consecutive years.

With 2004 sales of $4.2 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products for the hospitality, foodservice, institutional and industrial markets. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ECL.

Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at www.ecolab.com.

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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